

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Dr. Dierk SCHRÖDER et al.) Group Art Unit: Unknown
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Appln. No. : Not yet assigned) Examiner: Unknown
)
Filed : Concurrently herewith) Confirmation No.: Unknown
)
For : PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR MEASURING THE LENGTH AND/OR
 THE DIAMETER OF FILTER BARS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,
Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

- (1) German Patent Application No. 197 40 070 published March 18, 1999, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0006];
- (2) German Patent No. 34 14 247 issued September 8, 1994 (published October 31, 1984), which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0007]; and
- (3) German Patent Application No. 101 55 292 published May 15, 2003, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0072].

The following documents were cited in a Search Report conducted in European Patent Application No. 02 02 0291, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

(4) UK Patent Application No. 2 149 101 published June 5, 1985 as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone) with regard to claims 1 - 5, 10, 12, 13, 15 - 17, 19, 20, and 22 of the European application. Moreover, the European Examiner cited this document as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category) with regard to claims 6, 11, 18, and 21 of the European application. In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to the noted claims;

(5) European Patent Application No. 0 909 537 published April 21, 1999 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1 - 4, 7, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22 - 24 of the European application. The European Examiner noted the entire document as being particularly relevant;

(6) European Patent Application No. 0 555 875 published August 18, 1993 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1 - 4, 7, 12 - 17, 20, and 23 of the European application. The European Examiner noted column 10, line 57 - column 13, line 55; and Figures 10 - 12 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No.

5,370,137 issued December 6, 1994 to KUSHIHASHI et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European application;

(7) German Patent Application No. 24 48 651 published April 24, 1975 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1 - 4, 12, 13, 15 - 17, and 22 of the European application. The Examiner noted the claims and Figures as being particularly relevant;

(8) European Patent Application No. 0 500 301 published August 26, 1992 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1 and 2 of the European application. The Examiner noted the Abstract and Figures as being particularly relevant;

(9) U.S. Patent No. 3,897,156 issued July 29, 1975 to CHASSON as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 11 and 21 of the European application. The Examiner noted the Abstract and Figures as being particularly relevant. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 3,787,700 issued January 22, 1974 to CHASSON, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited U.S. patent;

(10) German Patent Application No. 34 14 247 published October 31, 1984 as a "D" category document (i.e., a document discussed in the application) and as a "Y" category document with regard to claim 6 of the European application. In particular, the European Examiner noted the Abstract as being particularly relevant. Applicants note that this document is cited above as item (2), and that, for the convenience of the

Examiner, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 4,543,816 issued October 1, 1985 to BRAND et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German application; and

(11) German Patent Application No. 197 40 070 published March 18, 1999 as a "D" category document and as a "Y" category document with regard to claim 18 of the European application. In particular, the European Examiner noted the Abstract as being particularly relevant. Applicants note that this document is cited above as item (1), and that, for the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,210,080 issued April 3, 2001 to HAUL et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German application.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed

herewith. Of course, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Dierk SCHRÖDER et al.

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September 8, 2003
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office							Atty. Docket No. P23858		Serial No. Not Yet Assigned			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)									Applicant Dr. Dierk SCHRÖDER et al.					
									Filing Date Concurrently Herewith		Group Not Yet Assigned			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER						DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		5	3	7	0	1	3	7	12/06/94	KUSHIHASHI et al.				
		3	8	9	7	1	5	6	07/29/75	CHASSON				
		3	7	8	7	7	0	0	01/22/74	CHASSON				
		4	5	4	3	8	1	6	10/01/85	BRAND et al.				
		6	2	1	0	0	8	0	04/03/01	HAUL et al.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
		DOCUMENT NUMBER						DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
		1	9	7	4	0	0	7	0	03/18/99	GERMANY			
		3	4	1	4	2	4	7	10/31/84	GERMANY				
		1	0	1	5	5	2	9	2	05/15/03	GERMANY			
		2	1	4	9	1	0	1	06/05/85	UNITED KINGDOM				
		0	9	0	9	5	3	7	04/21/99	E.P.O.				
		0	5	5	5	8	7	5	08/18/93	E.P.O.				
		2	4	4	8	6	5	1	04/24/75	GERMANY				
		0	5	0	0	3	0	1	08/26/92	E.P.O.				
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)														
EXAMINER										DATE CONSIDERED				
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.														